

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01
SAJ-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 DODE-00 NSC-05
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R 251700Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8909
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 00746

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: TECH, MNUC, EC, IAEA, BE
SUBJECT: EURATOM-IAEA SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT: BELGIAN IMPLEMENTATION

REF: (A) BRUSSELS 229, (B) 76 STATE 310525

1. MLLE. HERPELS, COUNSELOR FOR NUCLEAR MATTERS IN THE
BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY, HAS GIVEN US AN UPDATE ON BELGIAN
EFFORTS (DESCRIBED REFTEL A) TO ADOPT NATIONAL MEASURES
TO IMPLEMENT SUBJECT AGREEMENT. DRAFT LEGISLATION HAS
BEEN PREPARED AND CLEARED THROUGH WORKING LEVELS OF
RESPONSIBLE MINISTRIES. IT WILL BE CONSIDERED BY THE
PRIME MINISTER AND HIS CABINET ON JANUARY 29. IF APPROVED
THEN, THE DRAFT LAW WILL BE PRESENT TO PARLIAMENT THE
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FOLLOWING WEEK, PROBABLY WITH THE REQUEST THAT IT BE
CONSIDERED WITH "EXTREME URGENCY". THE REQUEST FOR
URGENT TREATMENT IS A CHANGE FROM EARLIER PLANS, AND
REFLECTS BOTH GREATER PRESSURE FROM WITHIN THE EUROPEAN
COMMUNITIES TO MOVE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE AND GREATER
CONFIDENCE BY THE GOVERNMENT THAT IT CAN ORGANIZE THE
PARLIAMENTARY SUPPORT TO ADOPT THE LEGISLATION EXPEDITIOUSLY.

ACCORDING TO HERPELS, THE LEADER OF EACH HOUSE OF PARLIAMENT HAS BEEN BRIEFED ON THE ISSUE AND HAS PROMISED TO SUPPORT THIS EFFORT ONCE THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION IS BEFORE THEM. THERE ARE TOO MANY UNCERTAINTIES TO GUESS CONFIDENTLY AT A TIMETABLE FOR PASSAGE, BUT IF THERE ARE NO OBSTACLES IT COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED IN "A MONTH OR TWO."

2. PROGRESS HAS ALSO BEEN MADE ON ARRIVING AT INTERIM ARRANGEMENTS WITH BELGIAN NUCLEAR INSTALLATIONS (SEE REFTEL A, PARAGRAPH 4). MINISTER OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS HERMAN HAS CALLED A MEETING OF SENIOR NUCLEAR INDUSTRY OFFICIALS FOR FEBRUARY 10, AND HAS INFORMED THEM WHAT THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES. ONE COMPANY (NOT NAMED BY HERPELS) HAS EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE ARRANGMENTS, BUT THE ODDS ARE THAT ALL WILL AGREE ON FEBRUARY 10 OR SHORTLY THEREAFTER.

3. HERPELS SAID THAT AN ACCEPTABLE FORMULATION OF EURATOM'S NOTIFICATION TO IAEA OF BELGIUM'S INTERIM COMPLIANCE HAS BEEN WORKED OUT WITH EURATOM, AND IT SHOULD PROVE SATISFACTORY ALSO TO IAEA. IT INVOLVES A LITERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT'S CONTRACTUAL ARRANGMENTS WITH INDUSTRY TO COVER THE PERIOD BEFORE NECESSARY LEGISLATION IS PASSED. THE DRAFTING PROBLEM WAS TO SATISFY IAEA THAT ADEQUATE ARRANGMENTS HAD BEEN ARRIVED AT, WITHOUT IMPLYING THAT THE LEGITIMATE ROLE OF THE BELGIAN PARLIAMENT HAD IN ANY WAY BEEN PREEMPTED. RENNER

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